universities should be made responsible for academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Employment of expatriate teachers

1142. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set norms to set up International Schools and a strict policy framework for their functioning in our country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is growing demand for Indian Employment visas for teachers from western countries to be recruited by the so called International schools in India at expatriate salaries and perks for teaching routine subjects like maths, physics etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to prevent foreigners to come to India and occupy such posts, which do not call for any special skills not obtainable in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Currently, there are no specific norms to set up international schools in the country. Such schools are generally affiliated to foreign boards and are set up with requisite approvals.

(b) and (c) Such statistics is not centrally maintained in this Ministry. At present, Indian Missions have been empowered to grant employment visas to foreigners, including foreign teachers coming to India for employment, in conformity with the provisions laid down in the visa manual, and in case of teachers, subject to ceiling prescribed for the relevant schools.

Misuse of SSA funds

†1143. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases have come to Government's notice of misuse and diversion of funds sanctioned to the States under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to retrieve the diverted or misused funds to be used for the purpose for which they have been sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Performance Audit report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, indicates that an amount of Rs. 53 crores can be classified as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines. The Government of India has directed the States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes.

In addition, reports from States have indicated instances of financial irregularities. Andhra Pradesh reported an embezzlement of Rs. 14.98 crores under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. An FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three accounts officials and transferred another three out of the State Project Office of SSA. In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against wherein services of two officials have been terminated. In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs. 8.58 lakhs recovered from them. In West Bengal an amount of Rs. 517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are underway. In Gujarat (2007-08) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs. 15.98 lakhs recovered. Nine officials have been suspended in Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. In Himachal Pradesh, FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse SSA funds and an amount of Rs.3.02 lakhs has been recovered.

The Government of India has issued strict instructions to States/UTs to recoup the inadmissible expenditure and to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. Complaints received on financial irregularities are investigated by States and corrective action taken on a regular basis. Government of India has laid down a Financial and Procurement Manual in SSA to streamline financial management systems. Government of India is also monitoring the use of SSA funds through annual State/UT audits, independent concurrent financial reviews and field monitoring through social science institutions.

100 days programme

1144. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 100 days programme of his Ministry;

(b) what special educational schemes are being launched for the Minorities;

(c) what suggestions have been received in this regard; and

(d) what is Government's view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of 100 days programme of Ministry of Human Resources Development is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) to (d) After taking into account various suggestions and the Government Policy in the matter, details of special educational schemes launched for the minorities are at in the Statement-II (*See* below).